(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any changes have been made regarding the criteria; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the details of notifications, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) As per Electricity Act, 2003, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for setting up of thermal power projects. However, as per Section 8(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government, from time to time, by notification. The present capital expenditure limits for hydro electric schemes requiring CEA's concurrence are as follows:

1. Rs.2500 crore, provided that-

(i) the scheme is included in the National Electric Plan (NEP) as notified by CEA and conforms to the capacity and type;

(ii) the site for setting up the hydro generating station has been allocated through the transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by Central Government.

2. Rs.500 crore for any other scheme not covered by para (i) and (ii) above.

(d). No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Environment impact assessment of hydro-electric projects

1775. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed at the downstream of all the hydro-electric projects being executed by NHPC, NEEPCO or others for all the ongoing and new projects in pipeline, that are coming up in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) According to available information in respect of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) being executed by NHPC, Environment Impact Assessment for an area of 7 km. downstream of dam site with respect to land use, *flora and fauna*, has been completed. However, the NHPC has appointed Guwahati University to study the downstream impact of the Project. This study is under progress. For Kameng Hydroelectric Project (600 MW) being executed by NEEPCO, Comprehensive Environment Studies of the Projects were carried out as per the guidelines of Ministry of Environment & Forest, wherein Environment Impact Assessment of Downstream was not specifically included.

In addition to the above projects, seven new Hydroelectric Project, all in Arunachal Pradesh, are in the pipeline for development. The details including present status are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project/Executing Agency/State	Sector	Installed Capacity (MW)	Status of CEA Concurrence	Status of EIA studies/Environment clearance yet to be accorded
1.	Dibang, NHPC, Ar. Pradesh	Central	12x250=3000	Concurred on 23.1.2008	EIA studies already completed. Environment clearance yet to be accorded.
2.	Pare NEEPCO Ar. Pradesh	Central	2x55=110	Concurred on 24.09.2007	Environment clearance accorded.
3.	Demwe Lower, Athena demwe power private Ltd. Ar. Pradesh	Pvt.	5x326=1630	Under Examination	EIA studies are likely to be completed soon.
4.	Siang Lower, Jaiprakash Arunachal Power Ltd. Ar. Pradesh	Pvt	8x300=2400	Returned in Jan, 09. The modified DPR likely to be submitted soon.	As per DPR, EIA studies are under progress
5.	Tato-II, Tato Hydro Power Pvt, Ltd. Ar. Pradesh	Pvt	5x140-700	DPR received is under scrutiny for acceptance for examination.	As per DPR, EIA studies are under progress
6.	Nyamjang Chhu, Ar. Pradesh	Pvt	6x150=900	-do-	As per DPR, EIA studies are under progress
7.	Dibbin KSK Dibbin Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd. Ar. Pradesh	Pvt	2x60=120	-do-	As per DPR, EIA studies are under progress